

MI Child Support Formula - Child Visitation/Support Proposal

From: "Charlette Dawson" <cdawson@iavbbs.com>
To: <mcsf@courts.mi.gov>
Date: 6/14/2003 9:56 AM
Subject: Child Visitation/Support Proposal
CC: "Dawson, Charlette (C.)" <cdawso14@ford.com>

Dear Sirs:

This proposal is a very, very bad idea and is contrary to the purpose of the child custody/support system and should be rejected vehemently in the best interests children. This proposal will create financial hardship for the custodial parent and therefore, for the child.

In my case, if this proposal is put into effect, my son will suffer particularly from an educational aspect. He is currently flourishing in a private school that I, the custodial parent, selected specifically to meet his needs. I am paying for this education largely myself, and am stretching my finances to do so because of the importance of my son's education.

Firstly, regardless of what his father says, his payment history and attitude strongly suggest that he cannot be depended upon to pay my son's school tuition from his own pocket. He is not paying all that much in child support to begin with. Any reduction would deprive my son of the education that is so important to his development. Secondly, dad doesn't shoulder many of the financial obligations of parenting now - buying clothes, chauffeuring the child to/from school, doctor's appointments, extracurricular activities, etc. Why should he have even less of an obligation?

This whole idea is suspect because "Dad" never had an interest in parenting time until this proposal came about. He has never been genuinely interested in my son's well-being, development or education. If this proposal is allowed to go through, it will create emotional, psychological and behavioral problems in my son. I have and always will have sole physical and legal custody (meaning that Friend of the Court told him it's his right to fight for custody but in all probability he would never win).

The father's behavior has taught my son that his father has chosen not to be a strong presence and a force in his life. As a result, my son looks to me for the parental authority and love that is so essential to his healthy growth and development.

It would be a gross injustice to my son to confuse him and "play politics" with parental authority, just for the sake of saving the father a few bucks a month. This would result in permanent and irreparable damage to my son and the father SHOULD NOT BE REWARDED for his casual and smug attitude toward his own son. When he exercises his "visitation", he does not use the time to nurture a relationship with his son. He often leaves his son in the care of someone else during his supposed "parenting" time. He will squander any additional visitation time by leaving my son with someone else, just to get a reduction in his child support payments.

My child would definitely be used as a pawn in a dispute over money. This is nothing more than the father's attempt to fool the court into thinking that he wants to spend time with his son

when his real motive is to reduce his financial obligation to this child. This idea is driven by the self-interest of the non-custodial parent. It is bad policy and should not be implemented. If it is allowed to be implemented, it is only a matter of time before it does harm to my son.

Sincerely,

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